



E-Legislative Update

February 22, 2010

We are in the seventh week of the legislative session.

You can [contact your legislator](#) making your position on a bill known. You can do so by writing a letter, sending an e-mail, calling the legislator's Olympia office, or by calling the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000.



The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs legislative priorities focus on state budget development and bills that impact the Asian Pacific American community in the areas of education, health care, human services, economic development, and immigration.

The legislature discussed the following bills and issues of interest to the Asian Pacific American community last week.

Week Six Highlights:

On Wednesday, February 17th, Governor Gregoire revealed details of her proposal to raise \$605 million in new revenue to support needed health, education and community programs across Washington state. After presenting an all-cuts budget in December, the Governor last month presented a list of programs and services she wants to restore through new revenue. This proposal, along with nearly \$1 billion in cuts and expected federal revenue through Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP) will fund that list of programs – and leave an ending fund balance of \$512 million.

The Governor's proposal includes a combination of closing tax loopholes, eliminating tax exemptions and increasing taxes on some discretionary products, including tobacco products, bottled water, carbonated beverages, candy and gum. The Governor also proposes to increase the tax rate for hazardous substances to protect Washingtonians from the effects of harmful pollutants. To learn more about the Governor's revenue proposal, [click here](#).

On Wednesday, the House passed **ESSB 6130** to amend Initiative 960. This bill would allow the legislature to raise revenue with a simple majority vote. The bill now heads back to the Senate. The Senate will have to agree on a version of the bill before it moves forward to the Governor.

Highlights of legislative discussion in **EDUCATION**:

- The Senate passed **E2SSB 6562** regarding tuition-setting authority. The bill would allow Washington State University, University of Washington, and Western Washington University to

set their own tuition rates, as long as tuition does not increase over 14 percent in a single year or 9 percent over a 15 year period.

- The House passed **2SHB 2867** regarding promoting early learning. The bill would require the Department of Early Learning in cooperation with the early learning advisory council and community partners to develop a plan for parents and caretakers.

Highlights of legislative discussions in the areas of **HEALTH CARE** and **HUMAN SERVICES**:

- **ESSB 6726** making the governor the public employer of language access providers was considered by the House Commerce and Labor Committee.

You can find more information through our e-legislative update and Web site on committee hearings, bills, and other events of interest throughout the legislative session. Our e-legislative update provides a general overview of a few bills of interest to the Asian Pacific American community while our [Web site](#) hosts a more extensive [list of bills](#) for those community members seeking more information.

Below are some scheduled meetings and hearings that might be of interest to you.

Education

Early Learning & K-12 Education

2/22/10 1:30 p.m.

Senate Full Committee

Senate Hearing Rm 1

J.A. Cherberg Building

Olympia, WA

Public Hearing:

1. [2SHB 2731](#) - Creating an early learning program for educationally at-risk children.
2. [2SHB 2867](#) - Promoting early learning.

Higher Education

2/23/10 10:00 a.m.

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm D

John L. O'Brien Building

Olympia, WA

Public Hearing:

1. [E2SSB 6562](#) - Regarding higher education accountability and access.

Executive Session:

1. [ESSB 6403](#) - Regarding accountability and support for vulnerable students and dropouts.
2. [ESSB 6778](#) - Establishing an alternative route to a high school diploma.
3. [E2SSB 6696](#) - Regarding education reform.

Early Learning & K-12 Education

2/24/10 8:00 a.m.

Senate Full Committee

Senate Hearing Rm 1

J.A. Cherberg Building

Olympia, WA

Public Hearing:

1. [HB 2621](#) - Designating resource programs for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics instruction in K-12 schools.
-

Health Care and Human Services

Commerce & Labor

2/23/10 10:00 a.m.

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm B

John L. O'Brien Building

Olympia, WA

Executive Session: [ESSB 6726](#) - Making the governor the public employer of language access providers.

Economic Development

Economic Development, Trade & Innovation

2/22/10 1:30 p.m.

Senate Full Committee

Senate Hearing Rm 3

J.A. Cherberg Building

Olympia, WA

Public Hearing: [E2SHB 1096](#) - Enhancing small business participation in state purchasing. (If measure is referred to committee.)

Community & Economic Development

2/22/10 1:30 p.m.

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm C
John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA

Executive Session:

1. [2SSB 6667](#) - Concerning business assistance programs.
 2. [2SSB 6679](#) - Concerning the small business export finance assistance center.
-

Immigration**Commerce & Labor**

2/23/10 10:00 a.m.

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm B
John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA

Executive Session: [SSB 6332](#) - Concerning human trafficking.

Budget**Ways & Means**

2/23/10 3:30 p.m.

Senate Full Committee

Senate Hearing Rm 4
J.A. Cherberg Building
Olympia, WA

Public Hearing: [SB 6444](#) - Making 2010 operating supplemental appropriations.

Capital Budget

2/23/10 6:00 p.m.

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm C
John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA

Public Hearing: [HB 2836](#) - Concerning the capital budget.

Ways & Means

2/23/10 6:00 p.m.

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm A
John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA

Public Hearing: [HB 2824](#) - Making 2010 operating supplemental appropriations.

Ways & Means

2/24/10 3:30 p.m.

Senate Full Committee

Senate Hearing Rm 4
J.A. Cherberg Building
Olympia, WA

Public Hearing: Proposed Senate revenue package.

Executive Session: [SB 6444](#) - Making the 2010 operating supplemental appropriations.

Ways & Means

2/24/10 3:30 p.m.

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm A
John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA

Executive Session: [HB 2824](#) - Making 2010 operating supplemental appropriations.

Capital Budget

2/24/10 3:30 p.m.

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm C
John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA

Executive Session: [HB 2836](#) - Concerning the capital budget.

Ways & Means

2/25/10 1:30 p.m.

Senate Full Committee

Senate Hearing Rm 4
J.A. Cherberg Building
Olympia, WA

Executive Session: Proposed Senate revenue package.

Information is current as of: February 22, 2010.

To find out more information on a particular bill, please visit <http://www.leg.wa.gov>

CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.

To receive more electronic updates, visit us at <http://www.capaa.wa.gov>. To unsubscribe, [click here](#).